

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, August 20, 2008 – 3:00 p.m. – State Office Building Auditorium

Members Present:

Sen. Dennis E. Stowell, Senate Chair
Rep. Fred R Hunsaker, House Chair
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Christine A. Johnson
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. R. Curt Webb
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent:

Sen. Sheldon Killpack
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
Rep. Brad King

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Stowell called the joint meeting of the Health and Human Services Interim Committee and the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee to order at 3:15 p.m.

2. Local Health Department Funding

Chair Stowell introduced the discussion topic: "to improve local health department funding of emergency and day-to-day operations." He reported on previous discussions that resulted in three proposed solutions to consider: 1) a cigarette tax managed through the governor's office, 2) a dedicated mill levy, and 3) the creation of a state emergency fund that would also be available to county health departments. "Budget Funding Summary (2002-2008)" and a sample property tax notice were distributed and reviewed.

Mr. Gary Edwards, Executive Director, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, joined at the witness table by Mr. Lloyd Berentzen, Executive Director, Bear River Health Department, explained the current funding for the local health departments in Utah. He expressed concern for the inequity of state mandated programs compared to county vs. state funding. He distributed "Local Health Department Program List" and explained the need for the programs. He reviewed those areas of health that are not being addressed because of inadequate funding. Mr. Edwards suggested a need for \$30 million influx of funding for the local health departments. He reviewed the three proposals introduced by Sen. Stowell.

Mr. Doug Springmeyer, Assistant Attorney General, addressed concurrence with state and federal mandates and the efforts of the state health department to realize equity for all the state's local health departments. He assured the Committee that both the monies being administered by the state and by the counties are being efficiently used.

Committee discussion followed.

Rep. Wimmer asked that an email be sent to committee members listing requirements the state has imposed on local health departments. The list could be used to consider repealing unnecessary requirements. Rep. Seelig requested a list of best practices. Rep. Harper requested a list of fees being charged for services. He also requested a list of services that are duplicated by the state health department and local health departments.

Mr. Mont Evans, Utah Restaurant Association, expressed the Association's support for the inspection process.

Mr. Adam Trupp, Utah Association of Counties, expressed appreciation for the Legislature's dialogue and encouraged its continuance.

Chair Stowell stated that chairs of the two committees will divide the proposed solutions between the two committees and place them on future agendas.

MOTION: Rep. Ray moved to recess the joint meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Recess and Reconvene

The Health and Human Services Interim Committee reconvened in Room 250, State Capitol. Chair Stowell reconvened the meeting of the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee at 4:50 p.m. He announced that the last agenda item would be postponed to a later date.

Due to the lack of a quorum, minutes of the May 21 and June 18, 2008 meetings were not approved.

4. Update on Affordable Housing Task Force

Ms. Jodi Hoffman, Utah League of Cities and Towns, reported on the progress of the ad hoc task force. She gave a slide presentation regarding moderate income housing and a sustainable community approach and the problems that arise with them. She reviewed the direction they are continuing to search for answers to the affordable housing problem. She reviewed potential solutions that the task force suggested. She emphasized the need for funding.

5. Disaster Funding

Rep. Curt Oda explained the need to at least put a line item in the state's budget for disaster recovery funds, even if it is not funded at this time. He stated he would like to see certain special districts have the ability to reserve money in their budgets as well for disaster recovery.

Major Jeff Graviat, Division of Homeland Security, Utah Department of Public Safety, expressed his support for Rep. Oda's request.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Utah League of Cities and Towns, stated concerns the League has and their willingness to work with the sponsor to answer those concerns.

Mr. LeGrand Bitter, Utah Association of Special Districts, asked the Committee to consider allowing some special districts, specifically those who have underground utilities like water and sewer, to also be involved. He suggested other special districts, fire districts, dispatch 911, public safety, and a couple of hospital districts for possible involvement.

6. Riparian Overlay Zones

This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

7. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Wimmer moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Fife, Rep. Hunsaker, Rep. Cosgrove, Rep. Daw, and Rep. Johnson were absent for the vote.

Chair Stowell adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.